

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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JCS

USNMR SHAPE

USDELMC

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

DIRNSA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 983

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PFOR GR US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS - PRESS COMMENT ON THIRD
PLENARY ROUND

1. CENTER OPPOSITION DAILY TO VIMA FEB 1 CARRIED FOLLOW-
ING NEWS STORY ON THIRD PLENARY RUND OF US-GREEK
BASE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER HEADLINE "FOUR AMERICAN BASES
WILL BE RETAINED IN ATTICA AND CRETE": QUOTE:

THE THIRD PHASE OF THE GREEK-AMRICAN NEGOTIATIONS
ABOUT THE BASES GOES ON SATISFACTORILY AND IT IS ESTI-
MATED THAT IT WILL BE COMPLETD IN ABOUT TEN DAYS, BUT
A FOURTH PHASE WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED FOR THE FINAL
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AGREEMENT ON THE BAISCALLY THREE SUBJECTS THAT PERTAIN TO:

WHICH AMERICAN BASES WILL BE RETAINED IN GREECE.
WHICH WILL BE THE JURISDICTION OF THE GREEK BASE
COMMANDERS, AND FINALLY,
THE LEGAL STATUS THAT WILL GOVERN THE AMERICAN
PERSONNEL OF THE BASES.

IT IS CONSIDERED CERTAIN THAT FINALLY TWO MAIN
TELECOMMUNICATION AMERICAN BASES WILL BE RETAINED--
ONE IN CRETE AND A SECOND ONE IN ATTICA--BECAUSE IT IS
CONSIDERED THAT THEY BOTH CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO THE
DEFENSE OF GREECE. THE FACILITIES GRANTED TO TE
AMERICANS ON THE AIRPORTS OF HELLINIKON AND SOUDA WILL
ALSO BE MAINTAINED, BUT UNDER THE NEW STATUS-- WITH
GREEK COMMANDER AND LIMITED "X IMMUNITIES" OF THE
AMERICAN PERSONNEL.

WITH REGARD TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE GREEK
COMMANDERS, PROBLEMS HAVE NOT APPEARED REGARDING THE
AIRPORT FACILITIES, BUT THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BASES,
WHICH HAVE ESPECIALLY COMPLICATED AND SECRET AMERICAN
ELECTRONIC MATERIEL.

HOWEVER, THE BIGGEST DIFFICULTIES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS
REGARD THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE AMERICAN PERSONNEL, BECAUSE
DURING THE LAST TWENTY YEARS SEVERAL "CONCESSIONS" WERE
MADE AT TIMES--EVEN WITH SECRET PROTOCOLS--, THAT HAVE
COMPLETELY ALTERED THE BASIC FRAME AGREEMENT ABOUT THE
"LEGAL STATUS OF THE ALLIED FORCES ON OTHER ALLY'S
TERRITORY (SOFA)," WHICH GREECE SIGNED AS THE OTHER
NATO MEMBER-STATES AS WELL, WHEN IT ENTERED THE
ALLIANCE. IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT ARE CONDUCTED--
AT A SLOW PACE IN THIS CHAPTER--THE GREEK SIDE TRIES
TO BRING THINGS BACK IN THE FRAMEWORK OF REGULATIONS,
WHICH ARE EFFECTIVE GENERALLY IN THE NATO COUNTRIES,
WHILE, OF COURSE AND AS IS NATURAL, THE AMERICAN SIDE
ATTEMPTS TO RETAIN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF THE SEVERAL
PRIVILEGES THAT ENSURED (OBTAINED) AT TIMES FROM
SUCCESSIVE GREEK GOVERNMENTS. END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: FOREGOING ARTICLE WAS RESULT OF
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BACKGROUNDER BY GREEK BASE NEGOTIATOR CALOGERAS AND
(WITH EXCEPTION OF MISLEADING REFERENCE TO "SECRET
PROTOCOLS") IS FURTHER INDICATION OF GENERALLY CON-
STRUCTIVE APPROACH ADOPTED BY GREEK GOVERNMENT IN
GENERAL AND CALOGERAS IN PARTICULAR. IT IS NOTEWORTHY
THAT IN BACKGROUNDING GREEK PRESS, GOG AFFIRMS THAT
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES IN IRAKLION AND IN ATTICA
"CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO THE DEFENSE OF GREECE". FOR

MANY MONTHS THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS RELUCTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE EVEN PRIVATELY. WILLINGNESS TO MAKE THIS AFFIRMATION ON BACKGROUND TO THE GREEK PRESS, ESPECIALLY TO OPPOSITION VIMA WHICH HAS BEEN NOTABLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT RELEVANCE OF OUR TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES TO GREEK DEFENSE, IS ANOTHER STEP FORWARD.

WHEN STEARNS SPOKE INFORMALLY TO CALOGERAS THIS MORNING ABOUT THE VIMA ARTICLE, CALOGERAS SAID THAT HIS MAIN PURPOSE HAS BEEN TO CORRECT MISCONCEPTIONS THAT THE GREEK PRESS HAD ABOUT STATUS OF FORCES AND "EXTRATERRITORIALITY". CALOGERAS HAD NOTED-- AND SO HAD WE--TENDENCY OF GREEK PRESS TO ATTACK THE VERY PRINCIPLE OF AN EXCEPTIONAL STATUS FOR US FORCES IN GREECE. THERE APPEARED TO BE LITTLE OR NO AWARENESS, FOR EXAMPLE, OF THE EXISTENCE OF A NATO-WIDE SOFA. IN BRIEFING THE PRESS ON THIS ISSUE, CALOGERAS WISHED THEREFORE TO MAKE THE POINT THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF AMERICAN FORCES IN GREECE BEING TREATED AS THOUGH THEY WERE GREEK FORCES. RATHER THE NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVE ON THE GREEK SIDE WAS TO BRING THE STATUS OF US FORCES MORE IN LINE WITH THE NATO-SOFA. KUBISCH

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